Claims

1.  An information recording apparatus comprising:

    title retrieval means for reading title information about respective titles for motion picture data recorded on a recording medium from the recording medium;

    chapter retrieval means for reading chapter information about respective chapters in said respective titles based on said title information; and

    menu generation means for generating a top menu including a display area to reproduce said respective chapters based on said chapter information and recording said top menu on said recording medium.

2.  The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said menu generation means allows said top menu to contain information about capturing times for said respective chapters.

3.  The information recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

    representative picture selection means for selecting a representative picture in said respective chapters based on said chapter information,

    wherein said menu generation means allows said top menu to contain said representative picture associated with said corresponding display area.

4.  The information recording apparatus according to claim 3,

    wherein said representative picture selection means selects a first closed picture data in said respective chapters as said representative picture.

5.  The information recording apparatus according to claim 4,

    wherein said representative picture selection means selects an I picture in

beginning VOBU for said respective chapters as said representative pictures.

6. The information recording apparatus according to claim 4,

    wherein, when said first closed picture data has a specified attribute, said representative picture selection means selects succeeding closed picture data not having said specified attribute as said representative picture.

7. The information recording apparatus according to claim 6,

    wherein, when said first closed picture data exceeds a camera-shake correction limit, said representative picture selection means selects succeeding closed picture data not exceeding said camera-shake correction limit as said representative picture.

8. The information recording apparatus according to claim 8,

    wherein, when said first closed picture data depends on specified effect capturing, said representative picture selection means selects succeeding closed picture data independent of said specified effect capturing as said representative picture.

9. The information recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

    apparatus type detection means for detecting an apparatus type to have recorded said motion picture data on said recording medium for said respective titles,

    wherein said chapter retrieval means, when said apparatus type corresponds to a specified type, reads said chapter information about all chapters contained in that title and, when said apparatus type does not correspond to said specified type, reads said chapter information only about a beginning chapter in that title.

10. The information recording apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein when said apparatus type is a camcorder, said chapter retrieval means reads said chapter information about all chapters contained in that title and, when said apparatus type is not a camcorder, reads said chapter information only about a beginning chapter in that title.

11. An information recording method comprising:

reading title information about respective titles for motion picture data recorded on a recording medium from the recording medium;

reading chapter information about respective chapters in said respective titles based on said title information; and

generating a top menu including a display area to reproduce said respective chapters based on said chapter information and recording said top menu on said recording medium.

12. An information recording method comprising:

reading title information about respective titles for motion picture data recorded on a recording medium from the recording medium;

reading chapter information about respective chapters in said respective titles based on said title information;

selecting a representative picture in said respective chapters based on said chapter information; and

generating a top menu for presenting a display area to reproduce said respective chapters associated with said representative picture based on said chapter information and recording said top menu on said recording medium.

13. An information recording method comprising:

reading title information about respective titles for motion picture data recorded on a recording medium from the recording medium;

reading chapter information about a beginning chapter in said respective titles based on said title information;

detecting an apparatus type to have recorded said motion picture data on said recording medium for said respective titles;

reading said chapter information about respective chapters following said beginning chapter when said apparatus type corresponds to a specified type; and

generating a top menu including a display area to reproduce said respective chapters based on said chapter information and recording said top menu on said recording medium.

14.   A program for allowing a computer to execute the steps of:

reading title information about respective titles for motion picture data recorded on a recording medium from the recording medium;

reading chapter information about respective chapters in said respective titles based on said title information; and

generating a top menu including a display area to reproduce said respective chapters based on said chapter information and recording said top menu on said recording medium.

15.   A program for allowing a computer to execute the steps of:

reading title information about respective titles for motion picture data recorded on a recording medium from the recording medium;

reading chapter information about respective chapters in said respective titles based on said title information;

selecting a representative picture in said respective chapters based on

said chapter information; and

generating a top menu for presenting a display area to reproduce said respective chapters associated with said representative picture based on said chapter information and recording said top menu on said recording medium.

16.    A program for allowing a computer to execute the steps of:

reading title information about respective titles for motion picture data recorded on a recording medium from the recording medium;

reading chapter information about a beginning chapter in said respective titles based on said title information;

detecting an apparatus type to have recorded said motion picture data on said recording medium for said respective titles;

reading said chapter information about respective chapters following said beginning chapter when said apparatus type corresponds to a specified type; and

generating a top menu including a display area to reproduce said respective chapters based on said chapter information and recording said top menu on said recording medium.